



Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association
Comments about Raised Bill 1016 and Raised Bill 1077
Public Health Committee
March 6, 2023

Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Kristen Winters, DPM. I am a Podiatric Physician practicing in Connecticut for the past 23 years, and also serve as president of the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association.

I would like to provide brief comments on two bills today.

With regard to Raised Bill 1016, *An Act Concerning Truth in Advertising by Health Care Providers*, I offered written testimony to you on February 1 when you had the issue of use of titles in Raised Bill 899. I won't repeat my comments other than to say Podiatrists have had specific title protection in our practice act for decades (Chapter 375, Sect. 20-63). We may refer to ourselves as a "Podiatric Doctor" or synonym "Podiatric Physician" or "D.P.M." for "Doctor of Podiatric Medicine." We see no reason to have any title stripped away from us.

We understand negotiations and discussions are continuing on Raised Bill 899. As such, we believe Raised Bill 1016, is unnecessary. I wanted to add that Section 2 of the bill requires all licensed healthcare providers to wear an ID name tag in all patient encounters. Our practices tend to be smaller, with more personal contact with patients. They know who I am and, for the most part, I am on a first-name basis with many of my patients.

With regard to Raised Bill 1077, *An Act Concerning the Acceptance By Physicians of Patients Who Are Medicaid Recipients*, we note the provisions for immunity from lawsuits in Section 2 would apply only to licensees in Chapter 370. We would also like to receive this type of protection from frivolous lawsuits and would ask that you include licensed Podiatrists in Chapter 375 in the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of CPMA's comments.